

# This Week In Agriculture

February 6, 2006

## February 2006

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## Upcoming events

Leadership Idaho Agriculture Class 26 meets Feb. 13-17 in Boise.

A. Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit, Feb. 13-14 at the Doubletree Riverside in Boise.

Leadership Idaho Agriculture Alumni Session, Red Lion Downtowner, Boise, Feb. 16-17.

39th Annual World Ag Expo in Tulare, CA. Go to <http://www.farmshow.org> for more information.

KMVT-TV Agri-Action, CSI Expo Center, Feb. 16-18. Contact your local county

**This Week in Agriculture** is a publication of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

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## Takasugi: Governor's ISDA budget good for Idaho

Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director Pat Takasugi outlined a strategy for legislative budget writers Monday that will help protect and encourage growth in the state's economy.

Takasugi's presentation of Governor Dirk Kempthorne's budget recommendation to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee highlighted the fact that Idaho's agriculture economy continues to grow, and as a result, the department's role in educating, regulating and marketing the industry is growing as well.

"I am optimistic about agriculture in Idaho," Takasugi said, emphasizing the record gate receipts from

2005, the growth in the dairy industry and strong potential to take advantage of biotechnology in the state.

The governor's budget includes \$152,000 of general funds to continue the Idaho Preferred branding program, used to market Idaho-produced products, \$29,000 for international trade promotions that is critical to expand the market for Idaho products beyond our borders, and \$30,000 to keep up with the demand for service in the Mexico trade of-



**Director  
Takasugi**

Mexico is Idaho's third-largest export market and is growing in importance to Idaho agriculture.

Takasugi also highlighted the need to combat the noxious weed Eurasian Water Milfoil. The weed has established a presence in more than 4,000 acres of Idaho's pristine waters.

"Milfoil poses a significant threat to our clear, blue lakes, and as those lakes are threatened, so are the swimmers and the boaters and the fishermen who enjoy them," Takasugi said.

The governor's budget recommendation for ISDA is \$31.4 million, of which \$6.4 million is general funds.

## ISDA hosts School, Urban Pest Management workshop

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is sponsoring a free workshop for school maintenance personnel, public facility managers and others who are interested in urban pest management.

The program runs all day February 28 at the Shilo Inn Conference Room, 702 West Appleway, Coeur d'Alene.

The program will cover many pest issues, including weeds on the football field, mice in the storeroom, ants in the kitchen or mold in the showers, as well as other problems brought up by participants. The program will also review new developments in integrated pest

management, rodent control, property line vegetation management and record-keeping for pesticide use.

Pesticide training recertification points will be available to licensed pesticide applicators who attend this workshop.

The workshop will present case histories related to non-compliant pesticide uses in school and urban situations, and review the points of implementing an integrated pest management program. Additionally, the workshop will introduce the new Healthy Schools Environmental Assessment Tool — a computer based evaluation process related to envi-

ronmental situations that can affect the health of occupants of public access buildings, primarily schools.

Please contact Chuck Hawley at 208-762-9586 to reserve a spot at this free workshop. Refreshments will be provided at breaks and lunch will be on your own. If you are traveling to this workshop, please contact the Shilo Inn in Coeur d'Alene at (208) 664-2300 and request the discounted room rate for the Pest Management School.

For additional information concerning this workshop please contact Bob Hays at 208-442-2803 or e-mail to [bhays@idahoag.us](mailto:bhays@idahoag.us)